



**MEMORANDUM**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH**  
**FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION**



**TO:** NMDGF Field Operations Officers

**FROM:** Captain Ty Jackson

**DATE:** 11/03/15

**RE: Proper placement of rank insignia for NMDGF**

With the recent adoption of rank insignia, Class A dress uniform and numerous recent promotions with more to come, I felt that now was a good time to address rank insignias and how/where you wear them properly to ensure a professional, uniform appearance. This memo will convey the only proper method for wearing rank insignia. Wearing rank insignia in any other fashion, in any other location than those listed here or for any other title than those listed will be considered improper and is not allowed. Currently the ranks for which an insignia will be worn within the Department are: Colonel, Major, Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant and Corporal.

All uniforms will be clean and neat in appearance and every effort will be made to ensure a professional appearance. Supervisors are tasked with ensuring this occurs. Old, worn, torn or stained uniforms are not acceptable and cannot be worn except in training. Any caps or hats must be kept clean and presentable. Filthy or misshapen hats are not acceptable. There are currently 3 uniforms approved for Field Operations:

**Class A Dress uniform** which will consist of the following (except for honor guard):

1. Dress wool pants with grey stripe (pressed).
2. Long sleeve grey button (zip) up uniform shirt with dark grey shoulder patch and proper insignia displayed if applicable.
3. Class A Dress jacket with metal badge and silver metal name plate with black lettering.



4. Standard black neck tie for men and a cross over tie for women.



5. Black, highly polished boots.
6. Black felt cowboy hat or no hat. Baseball caps, straw hats or other head wear are not approved.
7. Highly polished black leather Sam Browne (basket weave) with silver buckle having at a minimum: Holster and duty gun, 1 handcuff case with cuffs, magazine pouch with magazines OR in the alternative a black leather ranger belt (basket weave) with silver buckle, black leather holster, handcuff case and magazine pouch with magazine.
8. White gloves (optional except for recruits graduating from the DPS academy and honor guard)

Class A uniforms will be worn for all formal events including funerals/memorial services, game commission meetings and at any event at the direction of the Colonel. A Class A uniform is also approved for job interviews if a modified Class A is not worn. A modified Class A uniform (long sleeve only) which includes a black neck tie or cross over tie, black Class A pants with grey stripe and highly polished boots and leather gear (no jacket) is approved for job interviews and special assignments such as security detail at a Game Commission Meeting.

**Class B uniform will consist of the following:**

- Grey button (zip) up uniform shirt with dark grey shoulder patch and proper insignia displayed if applicable (long sleeve or short sleeve) with metal badge and silver metal name plate with black lettering.
  - Years of service stars/bars and instructor patches will be black and silver not yellow and white.
  - If an instructor patch is worn, years of service bars or stars must be worn on the other sleeve.
- Black denim 5 pocket pants (wranglers or similar) or black BDU type pants.
- Black boots.
- Black leather (basket weave) Sam Browne with all the appropriate duty gear.
- Black felt cowboy hat, straw cowboy hat or black baseball cap with circle star embroidered on the front.

- Standard uniform coat with rank insignia displayed. Sergeants and corporals will have chevron's sewn onto the shoulder one inch below the grey bear head patch (measurement will be from the lowest point on the round shoulder patch to the tip of the chevron). Lieutenant's and above will wear the appropriate rank pin on the shoulder in the same fashion as prescribed for a Class A jacket. Coats may have either a cloth badge patch sewn on or a metal badge pinned on.
- Optional – The external vest carrier in black with a cloth badge sown on to the pocket or above the pocket with the officer's name embroidered on it. This vest is for field use and is not to be worn to Department meetings or public meetings which are planned. This external carrier will not be worn with the polo shirts.

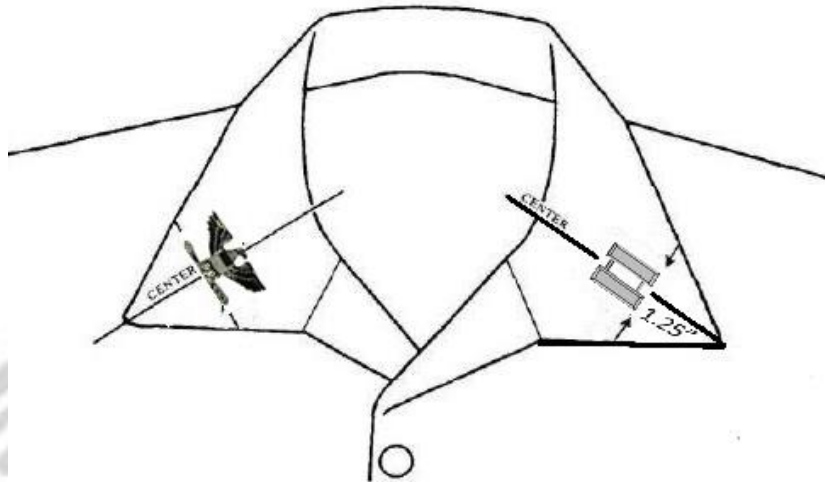
Class B uniform is approved for all field operations, however, a long sleeve or short sleeve Class B without the external carrier must be worn when at any scheduled public presentation such as Hunter Education, State Fair or Expo. Grey shirts with white shoulder patches or yellow years of service stars are no longer approved and cannot be worn except for training.

**Class C uniform will consist of the following:**

- Dark grey polo with circle star with bear head embroidered (not badge patch) on left chest and name (first initial and last name) embroidered on right chest. The old style light grey polo's are no longer an approved uniform except for firearms, DT or RBT training. Red polo's may be worn by all high risk instructors during training only.
- Black denim 5 pocket pants (wranglers or similar) or black BDU type pants.
- Black boots.
- Black leather (basket weave) Sam Browne with all the appropriate duty gear.
- Black baseball cap with circle star embroidered on the front.
- No rank insignia will be worn on any polo.

Class C uniforms may be worn for field operations where contact with the public will be at a minimum or will consist of primarily law enforcement contact. Examples are hunt patrol, angler patrol, training and special operations including department traps and fisheries projects. The Class C uniform is not approved when any public presentation or meeting is scheduled.

For Colonel, Major, Captain and Lieutenant; rank will be displayed on the shirt collar in the manner displayed in the following diagram. Note that the insignia for Colonel, Major, Captain and Lieutenant will be positioned so that the bottom of the insignia is 1.25 inches up from the tip of the collar or high enough that it does not protrude beyond the fabric on each side (for wider insignias).



**Colonel:** Insignia for the Colonel will be a silver eagle clutching arrows.



Colonel Class B uniform: One eagle will be pinned on each collar with the head facing forward. A coat sized eagle will be placed on any uniform jacket in the same location as the Class A jacket.

Colonel Class A dress uniform: Eagles will be placed on the shirt collar as well as the Class A jacket. Jacket insignias will be larger than the shirt insignia. The emblems will be placed with the eagle head looking forward on the shoulder, centered on the X stitching near the tip of the shoulder. The eagle will be placed so that the feet are toward the shoulder tip and the head is toward the wearer's neck.

**Major:** Insignia for Major will be a gold oak leaf.



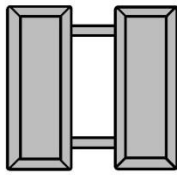
Major's Class B uniform: One oak leaf will be pinned on each collar 1.25 inches from the tip as depicted in the diagram. A coat sized oak leaf will be placed on any uniform jacket in the same location as the Class A jacket.



Major's Class A dress uniform: The oak leaf will be placed on the shirt collar as well as the Class A jacket. Jacket insignias will be larger than the shirt insignia. The emblems will be placed on the jacket with the leaf stem facing toward the shoulder tip, centered on the X stitching near the tip of the shoulder.

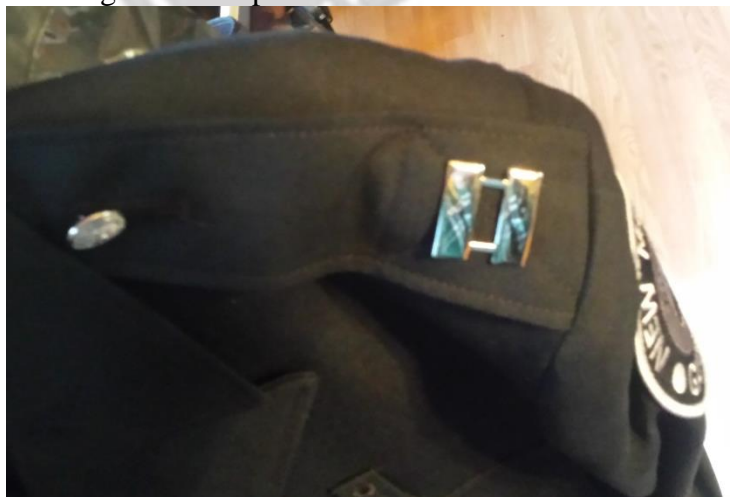


**Captain:** Insignia for Captains will be 2 silver bars.

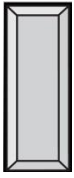


Captain Class B uniform: One set of bars will be pinned on each collar 1.25 inches from the tip as depicted in the diagram. A coat sized set of bars will be place on any uniform jacket in the same location as the Class A jacket.

Captain Class A dress uniform: Bars will be placed on the shirt collar as well as the Class A jacket. Jacket insignias will be larger than the shirt insignia. The emblems will be placed on the jacket with the wide portion of the bar facing toward the shoulder tip, centered on the X stitching near the tip of the shoulder.



**Lieutenant:** Insignia for Lieutenants will be one silver bar.



Lieutenant Class B uniform: One bar will be pinned on each collar 1.25 inches from the tip as depicted in the diagram. A coat sized set of bars will be place on any uniform jacket in the same location as the Class A jacket.

Lieutenant's Class A dress uniform: Bars will be placed on the shirt collar as well as the Class A jacket. Jacket insignias will be larger than the shirt insignia. The emblems will be placed on the jacket with the wide portion of the bar facing toward the shoulder tip (same as Captains bars), centered on the X stitching near the tip of the shoulder.

**Sergeant:** Insignia for Sergeants will be 3 silver chevrons.



Sergeant Class B uniform: Chevrons will be worn on all long and short sleeve button (zip) up shirts. Sergeants will not wear a class B uniform without these insignia except for training. Chevrons will be worn on both shoulders one inch below the bear head shoulder patch. Chevrons will also be worn on normal uniform jackets with the same placement as on shirts.

Sergeant's Class A dress uniform: No insignia will be worn on the Class A jacket, however, silver chevron pins will be worn on the collar of the shirt ONLY when in a full Class A with jacket. The chevrons will be worn in the same fashion as Colonel, Major, Captain and Lieutenant insignias.

**Corporal:** Insignia for Corporals will be 2 silver chevrons.



Corporal Class B uniform: Chevrons will be worn on all long and short sleeve button (zip) up shirts. Corporals will not wear a class B uniform without these insignia except for training. Chevrons will be worn on both shoulders one inch below the bear head shoulder patch. Chevrons will also be worn on normal uniform jackets with the same placement as on shirts.

Corporal's Class A dress uniform: No insignia will be worn on the Class A jacket, however, silver chevron pins will be worn on the collar of the shirt ONLY when in a full Class A with jacket. The chevrons will be worn in the same fashion as Colonel, Major, Captain and Lieutenant insignias.

**Mourning Bands:** Mourning bands will be worn when ordered by the Colonel or when honoring a fallen officer, regardless of agency. Bands are only worn until the fallen officer is laid to rest or the funeral service is complete. Bands shall be worn until the officer ends work on the day of any funeral service. Bands will be worn diagonally from top left to bottom right. Bands will be of black material.

